Export of IT

†1195. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether percentage of export with regard to information technology sector has declined;

(b) if so, the percentage of decline during the last two years;

(c) The money involved in the information technology business at present; and

(d) the theoretical and practical efforts made by Government for increasing the business of this sector?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Notwithstanding the general global slowdown, India's software exports is likely to register at robust growth rate of over 30% during 2001-2002. The software export during 2001-2002 is likely to be over Rs. 37,000 crores, as compared to Rs. 28,350 crores during 2000-01.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to promote IT industry are given in the Statement. [*Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to Unstarred Question No. 1168 Part (c)*]

OCB Telephone Exchanges in Himachal Pradesh

†1196. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme to establish OCB Telephone Exchanges based on modern system of Communications in Hamirpur, Bilaspur and Una districts of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for delay if any?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) There is no plan with the Government at present to install New Technology based OCB Telephone Exchanges in Hamirpur, Bilaspur and Una Districts of Himachal Pradesh. The existing CDOT MAX-XL exchanges working in these areas are fully meeting the requirement. However, it is planned to provide an independent OCB Trunk Automatic Exchange at Hamirpur in the year 2002-03.

Supply of Telephone Directories

1197. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that authorised regular telephone users are required to be provided with telephone directories periodically, free of cost by their respective Telephone District Authorities;

(b) if so, the details of the Rules/Government orders regulating publication and supply of telephone directories to the users;

(c) whether it is also a fact that telephone directories are not published at a regular intervals by various telephone districts as well as MTNL;

(d) whether some Telephone Districts are not providing telephone directories to its users free of cost instead they are charged for it; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Telephone directory is to be provided every alternate year and in the intervening period, a supplementary directory is to be provided to the subscriber. As per the present scheme, one directory is supplied free of charge for every telephone connection and for every extension of PABX (Private Automatic branch Exchange) irrespective of the fact that more than one telephone is working for